

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL – Community Projects Committee

Minutes of the Community Projects Meeting held on Wednesday 4th August 2022 at 6.00pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey.

Present: Cllr Mockett, Gerstner, Mrs Mayor, Whitwell

Officer in Attendance: Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk & RFO

CP45/2022. To receive apologies for absence from members.

Cllr Mrs Windle & Munns (work), Cllr Davies was not present, and no apologies were given.

CP46/2022. To confirm and sign minutes from the last meeting of the Community Projects Committee held on Wednesday 6th July 2022.

Item 3 – Should read it was suggested to move either 1, 2 or 3 of them and not all three. Cllr Mockett advised also if we supported moving it to Coates Fete, he would be able to obtain the bands free of charge.

CP47/2022. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda item.

There were no declarations.

CP48/2022. Public Forum. - To allow members of the public to address the Council. Time Allowed 15 mins total.

1 Member of the public

Cllr Eamonn Dorling represent Bassenhally Ward as a Councillor, An active member of the Whittlesey & District Business Community and a Volunteer. I have attended many of these events since they began. I have three concerns:

1. What is our target Audience?
2. What do we aim to Achieve?
3. Is WTC Volunteer dependent?

I met with retail owners that seek a wider diversification of audience because the additional staff employed are underutilised. Specifically, the entertainment has become familiar rather than attracting a younger age profile.

The events have been aimed at supporting local businesses and become an attraction to the town centre. Moving from an area that people can easily attend, car parking is close by and facilities to aid the ease of facilitating an event are close by, to remote locations without local business or facilities would be against the *raison d' être*.

Volunteers, equipment, facilities, and compliance with a risk assessment are contributory to the fine record of well-organised events by a small group of dedicated people. Diluting this synergy and the continued support of voluntary help risks the sustainability of these popular events and the organic growth potential.

CP49/2022. Agenda items for discussion.

1. Allotments
 - a. Waiting list update – The Clerk advised there was twenty-seven on the waiting list, the overgrown allotment has been offered out and she is waiting for a response.

- b. Allotment Inspections – update on allotment judging – The final judging was conducted by Mrs Gill Lawrence local horticulturist, the awards will be presented at the allotments judged by Gill Lawrence, just do 1st / 2nd / 3rd (3rd September at 1030, at the allotments).

2. **Music on the Square 2022 – August Event**

Cllr Whitwell advised all ready to go, stewards in place along with regular volunteers. Cllr Whitwell will bring the access steps to the stage back to the office for storage after the event.

3. **Music Events 2023**

Cllr Gerstner has conducted a poll and received some calls today asking if his poll has been manipulated, he was taking screen shots every few hours and after viewing some of the IP addresses it was evident that some were repeated therefore some people were numerous times and distorting the result. Members expressed differing views on the future movement of the events, Cllr Gerstner was concerned about the H & S risk assessment that would need to be conducted for North Green, Coates, also the green is owned by the Whittlesey Charity and permission would need to be sought from them. Other issues could be the lack of facilities and power. Cllr Mockett advised he had contacted Graham Abblitt from the charity regarding use of the green. Members also asked if residents round the green been asked if they are happy with this. Cllr Gerstner suggested three events on the square and an additional one at Coates. Cllr Mockett suggested running one at the Manor along with the Big Bash. Leave two on the square and have one in Coates. Cllr Mockett advised he has been contacted by residents saying they did not think the marketplace events were a family event.

Cllr Mockett advised he had someone who could come and do a risk assessment for Coates Green.

Cllr Whitwell thinks it will be a mistake to move it off the marketplace, and it should not be with the big bash. He does feel an additional event would be possible, Cllr Whitwell advised there is a Music Working Party now who help with all the running of the events. The existing volunteers have advised they will not help if it is moved away from the market. He recommends keeping all three events on the Market Place, there is no need to grow this on the market, and Cllr Mrs Mayor advised it could not grow on the marketplace.

Cllr Gerstner, Whitwell and Mockett expressed differing opinions and agreed that this item be discussed further at the Full Council in August.

4. Continental Market Update – Cllr Mockett advised that after conversations with Cllr Nawaz he was looking to move the continental market to Grosvenor Road top car park. Members agreed to invite Cllr Nawaz to the next meeting to update them on his progress.

5.

CP50/2022 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 7th September 2022

Meeting Closed 19:02



.....
Jason Mockett
Chairman
Community Projects Committee

